



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

September 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
SUBJECT: Notice of Possible Furlough Due to a Lapse in Appropriations

I am sure that most of you have heard news and other reports about the prospect of furloughs if the Department of Justice appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996 or a continuing resolution is not passed by the Congress and signed by the President by October 1, 1995. The last few days have brought indications that such furloughs may be avoided. That is welcome news. However, I want to be sure that you have as much information as possible so that you can take the personal steps which would be necessary in the event furloughs occur.

During a "lapse in appropriations," agencies may not obligate funds except to maintain the minimum level of emergency activity and to effect an orderly shutdown of Government operations. Accordingly, furloughs would be required for all Department employees except for those who are performing excepted activities or shutdown activities, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

In a furlough, workers are placed temporarily in a nonwork and nonpay status. If fiscal year 1996 funds are not appropriated for the Department by October 1, 1995 and if you are not identified as an "emergency" (or "exempt") worker, you will be provided specific information as to the starting date and projected duration of the furlough and of any appeal rights you may have. Even those employees who are designated to report for duty may not receive paychecks during the appropriations lapse.

You and your colleagues across the country provide services vital to the well-being of our Nation and I fervently hope that we will avoid having to furlough any employees. However, in consideration of your own and your family's well-being, I must encourage you to consider and plan for the financial hardship that a furlough would bring.

I will make every effort to ensure that you are kept informed of developments in this situation.